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In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Applicant : Mary Ann Caneba
Appn. No. : 10/002,763
Filed : Nov. 27, 2001
Title : Picking Rake
Grp./A.U. : 3671
Examiner : Arpad F. Kovaks

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APR 20 2004
GROUP 3600

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Date of Mailing: April 13, 2004

Sir:

Attached is the response to the non-final office action sent 01/14/04 regarding the above patent application. The applicant is submitting the following:

1. Claim Amendments - 24 pp.
2. Remarks/Arguments - 63 pp. of text and 6 pp. of drawings
3. Additional Fee for excess number of claims: \$321.00

In the original application of 11/27/01, the applicant paid for a total of 26 claims and 5 of which were independent. The attached claim amendments consist of 33 claims and 11 of which are independent. Therefore, the applicant is liable for the excess of 6 independent and 7 total number of claims.

This adds up to:

6 independent claims over 5 @ \$43 = \$258

7 claims over 26 @ \$ 9 = 63

Total = \$321

Actually, the applicant is not certain if the calculation is done right or if there is a necessary fee associated with all of the excess independent claims.

04/15/2004 BSAYASI1 00000065 10002763

01 FC:2201
02 FC:2202

258.00 OP
63.00 OP

Independent claim 57 and its four(4)dependent claims are already allowed, therefore need not be examined further. Seven(7) of the eleven(11) independent claims (Claims 81 and 99-104) are submitted to provide options that comply with the Examiner's conditions for allowance where five(5) dependent claims (claims 82-86) will be allowed if written in independent form and further includes all the elements in the rejected parent/independent claim 81. Only a cursory examination of each of these claims may be necessary. Six(6) independent claims (claims 99-104) may appear lengthy but they are just almost duplicates of claim 81 except for a few insertions.

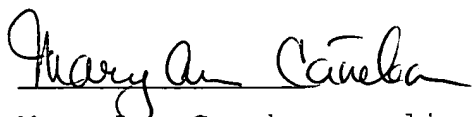
In any case, please bill/refund the applicant for any shortage/overpayment of fees that are due in case the above calculations are not correct.

4. Specification Amendments: In addition to the amendments requested with the RCE, the applicant is requesting additional amendments to incorporate terms used in the claims particularly the terms "grip handle" from allowed claim 57 and "resilient member" from new claim 88 in case it is allowed. No new matter is involved.

5. Return postcard

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Ann Caneba, applicant

302 W. Jacker Ave.

Houghton, MI 49931

Certificate of Mailing:

I hereby certify that this correspondence and referenced attachments will be deposited with the United States Postal Service by Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendments

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on the date below.

Date: April 13, 2004

Inventor's Signature: Mary Ann Canale